

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine that examined the use of candy flavors in tobacco products found that—no surprise here—flavors drive increases in tobacco use among kids. E-cigarettes and their refill liquids come in thousands of different flavors, such as Gummi Bears, Sweet Tarts, and Fruit Loops. Just look at this photo of Gummi Bear-flavored e-liquid. The bottle is about this big.

As the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. James Perrin, said, “Because liquid nicotine comes in a variety of bright colors and in flavors appealing to children such as cotton candy and gummy bear, it is no surprise that these products have found their way into the hands of children.”

I don’t think they are making gummy bears to encourage people the age of the Presiding Officer, to get them to start smoking, or my age; they are getting young children to start smoking. Gummi Bears, Fruit Loops, and Sweet Tarts—those are candies young children receive at Halloween. They are also flavors of highly toxic products.

The bottle in this photo contains two teaspoons of liquid nicotine. A single teaspoon of this e-liquid, even if it is highly diluted, can kill a small child if ingested. It is totally legal. People will see this sold at drugstores and at all

kinds of places. Children are likely to pick it up if they see it around the house. There is a chance—there always is in a country of 300 million people—that some child will—attracted by this, looking at this, the cute little bottle—will drink it, and that child could die.

It is past time for the FDA to regulate these dangerous products before more children and more teenagers get hooked on e-cigarettes.

My colleagues and I, led by Senator MERKLEY, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator DURBIN, and others, have called on the FDA over and over again to finalize these proposed rules and reject efforts to weaken these proposed regulations. Every day the FDA waits is thousands more children getting addicted to nicotine, thousands more children getting exposed potentially to drinking this very toxic liquid, and thousands more children smoking these e-cigarettes.

Tobacco companies are pushing to allow more products to be grandfathered out of the new rules. They want to exempt a huge range of e-cigarettes from any review to determine whether they are a threat to public health. That would mean these products would never be subject to review by the FDA. How stupid of a nation can we be? We have been so successful in the last 40 years as public health officials, as Members of Congress, as responsible adults, as consumer groups

and advocates for children. We have been so successful in reducing the incidence of smoking, especially among young people. It has changed the whole next generation. Yet, now we are letting this happen.

E-cigarettes are still tobacco products. They are used by the tobacco industry—I haven’t talked about this yet—as a gateway cigarette for kids, and that doesn’t stop. They see this, and they start smoking these e-cigarettes. Then a year or 2 years, 5 years, 10 years down the road, they will be smoking traditional tobacco and they will be addicted, and we know what addiction to cigarettes is for so many of our fellow Americans.

My colleagues and I urge the Food and Drug Administration to strengthen and finalize these regulations before any more of our children get hooked on potentially dangerous and addictive tobacco products.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:23 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 30, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.